

# Lifespan Respite Care Program



Lifespan Respite Grantee Lead Agency: **Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS)**

Funding Period: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2023

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Primary Goal: **Expand and strengthen the availability and accessibility of high-quality, person-centered respite services to caregivers, regardless of age or special need of the care recipient.**

Key Performance Measures	Notable Achievements
<p>Each stated objective of the Lifespan Respite Grant project was supported by measurable outcomes and enumerated indicators for determining success. Process evaluation was used during the development phase of each initiative or activity contained within an objective, including needs assessments related to respite availability throughout the state, as well as needs and preferences specific to underserved populations and communities. Workplan activities for each objective and indicator were monitored throughout the funding period for timeliness, effectiveness, and outcomes, and adjustments were made to ensure successful completion. Outcome measures including enumeration of products used, populations reached, workshops and trainings attended, and resulting knowledge acquired are described in brief in this summary for each of the projects' three objectives and supporting outcomes.</p>	<p>In order to develop and provide respite information, resources, respite funding, and new programs to underserved populations through partner agencies, the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) increased partnerships with agencies serving Latinx communities, Native American Tribes, relative caregivers, and rural communities. After determining unique needs for each population, RCAW created marketing materials specifically for each population and identified programs and agencies serving underserved populations that could be served by a new grant initiative. RCAW received 110 grant applications and funded 28 programs across Wisconsin serving rural communities, African American, Hmong, and Latino/ Hispanic families, tribal nations, LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals at risk for abuse and neglect, grandfamilies, siblings, and low-income families. More than 430 individuals received more than 3,200 hours of care under this grant initiative.</p>

Key Objectives, Activities and Outcomes	Coalition, ADRC and Community Partners
<p><b>Objective 1. Increase the number of training opportunities available to respite providers.</b></p> <p><b>Notable Partnerships, Products and Performance Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide trained providers access to specialty training and continuing education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This project shared its core training course, the Respite Care Provider Training, with other states across the nation.</li> <li>▪ Providers requested access to RCAW's partnership with the College of Direct Supports (offering 45 different online training courses) or to RCAW's partnership with the UW Oshkosh Center for Community Development, Engagement, and Training (CCDET) online Dementia Training. Providers received funds to pay registration fees for conferences and webinars related to respite or care for persons with disabilities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>State and Community Partners/State Respite Coalition/Organization Role</b></p> <p>The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) and the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) were key partners in this project. As part of this project, new systems were created, resources were developed, and research was conducted about the state of respite in Wisconsin. This was particularly important due to the COVID-19 pandemic to learn how changes in the availability and service</p>

- Through presentations at the National Lifespan Respite Conference, Dementia Courses, and the College of Direct Supports, 126 training opportunities were completed, and an additional 2,000+ views of webinar recordings occurred.
- Translate RCAW's Respite Care Certificate Program into Spanish.
  - All courses in the Respite Care Provider Training have been translated into Spanish. A pilot project requirement was a 100% pass rate on the training's final test, with learners having the opportunity to review information and retake the final test as needed. The average score on the pre-test was 54.44%, and the average score on the post-test was 100%.

**Objective 2: Enhance a sustainable, coordinated statewide system of respite resources and programs for all family caregivers.**

**Notable Partnerships, Products and Performance Outcomes**

- Establish a Statewide Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of key individuals and organizations that represent populations across the lifespan.
  - The PAC formed was comprised of long-term care professionals, state Department of Health Services staff, family caregivers, self-directed consumers, and representatives from institutions of higher education and tasked with reviewing project activities and assisting in planning and implementing the WI Lifespan Respite System.
  - PAC members developed an Annual Respite Summit model, and three Wisconsin Respite Summits were held during the funding period. Interactive feedback was garnered, documented, and shared.
- Upgrade RCAW's current Respite Registry and database tracking system.
  - The grantee transferred its registry and database tracking system to the Gnosis database system, allowing RCAW to build infrastructure to continue its programs efficiently and to establish a new function called Respite Connections. Respite Connections allows family caregivers to post a listing when they need respite, and respite providers on the Registry can search listings by county and age to find respite opportunities.
- Develop and implement a public awareness campaign for RCAW.
  - RCAW created a Benefits of Respite flyer used throughout the state that provides information about respite and shows caregivers ways to use natural supports. RCAW also provided informational webinar sessions and virtual conferences to reach family caregivers and providers where they were. Inquiries for RCAW grant programs increased 1,172%.
- Develop a sustainable system for ongoing assessment of Wisconsin's current state of respite and needs.
  - An evaluator developed and launched an online survey in 2022, and data was collected and presented on a RCAW webpage. A similar survey will be conducted every other year.

**Objective 3: Create new respite programs throughout the state.**

**Notable Partnerships, Products and Performance Outcomes**

- Develop and implement an instructor-led training in building a business plan to start a respite agency or program.
  - The Bringing Respite to Your Community Workshop was created as a 6-week workshop that included online self-paced lessons; face-to-face Zoom meetings with an instructor; and discussion boards. Nine sessions were held with 68 learners completing the workshop.

delivery of respite services during the pandemic affected the families in Wisconsin in real time and in longer term.

Other important partners in specific grant activities and initiatives are described within each of the three project objectives.

**Aging and Disability Resource Center Role**

RCAW educates ADRC staff about its programs and invites other respite agencies, ADRC's, and Wisconsin DHS staff to participate in RCAW workshop series and to share information statewide.

- Develop a student volunteer-based college/university model for respite care.
- A Student Respite Provider Program toolkit that could help replicate student respite volunteer models across the country was developed. The Student Respite Collaborative was established in partnership with the ARCH National Respite Network and the Building Respite Evidence and Knowledge (BREAK) Exchange in order to provide a forum for academic partners and program staff involved in student respite programs to share ideas, best practices, and identify potential collaborative opportunities.

#### **Program Flexibilities and Supports Offered in Response to Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic**

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, RCAW provided live 30-minute monthly webinars on a variety of topics that were posted on the RCAW YouTube channel for continued access.
- With COVID-19 supplemental funds, a fourth outcome was added to the project increase existing respite by dedicating PPE and other resources to programs affected by the pandemic.



For more information, contact ARCH at (703) 256-2084